

New-York Weekly Museum.

PRINTED and PUBLISHED by HARRISSON AND PURDY, at their PRINTING-OFFICE, No. 3, PECK-SLIP; where Subscriptions are taken in at *Ten Shillings* per annum; Essays, Articles of Intelligence, Advertisements, &c. are gratefully received.

A NARRATIVE.

The facts contained in the following narrative were chiefly taken from the mouth of one who was witness to most of them.

MR Forbith was one of those honest Hibernians who, about twenty two years since, quitted his native country, where even his highest expectations from the utmost exertions of industry, could reasonably ascend to but a small degree above absolute want, and sought a more hospitable clime on the fertile shores of America. We are not able to ascertain, whether it was from necessity or from choice that he finally fixed upon the province of Canada as the place of his residence. Our information assures us, that after having remained a few years in this northern part of the continent, his prospects became sufficiently flattering, and induced him to seek a partner who might share with him the fruits of his honest labours. Having fixed upon a proper object for this purpose, the ceremonial offices were performed, which, as they necessarily increased the sphere of his solicitudes, so they gave existence to stronger motives for diligence and oeconomy.

It was not long before this family was enlarged by the addition of a number of promising children, and as far as we can learn, their circumstances were such, that however they might be conceived of by those accustomed to the refinements of luxury and effeminacy, they were sufficient to produce contentment and serenity in their humble spirits. Nurtured in the habit of narrow expectations they had been taught to be content with little, and esteemed themselves rich in proportion as their supplies succeeded the real necessities of life.

Probably in consequence of the distresses so generally experienced by the inhabitants of Canada during the continuance of the late war. Mr Forbith found it very difficult to procure a subsistence tolerably comfortable for a family, now consisting of four children, together with himself and wife. Under these circumstances, he had formed a determination to remove to some other part of the continent; and as the country, bordering upon Kennebec river, from the account of those who were acquainted with the soil, appeared to him most favourable to his designs, he early in the year 1784 came to a resolution to remove thither. On account of the difficulties which, without a skilful guide, must necessarily attend a passage through an almost impenetrable wilderness, interposed between his present abode and the place to which he was about to remove, he had at first intended to have passed with his family down the river St Lawrence and thence round into the mouth of Kennebec. Whilst he was preparing to put his design into execution he accidentally met with three Dutchmen who were travelling across the country through the woods to the same place. Upon Mr Forbith's communicating them his intentions of removal, the Dutchmen, with the utmost apparent cordiality, readily offered to con-

duct him and his family through the woods, and to afford them their assistance in whatever might be required for their convenience and safety.

This offer was gratefully accepted by Mr Forbith, and having packed up such of their cloathing and utensils as they could carry with them, which we may reasonably suppose constituted the greater part of their property, Mr Forbith, his wife and four children, in the latter end of March, quitted their habitation on the bank of the river Shedore, and committed themselves to the protection and guidance of the three Dutchmen.

Moreover incredible it may seem, that a weak woman, with four tender children, some of whom must have been carried in arms through this inhospitable wilderness, at perhaps the most inclement season of the year, should have supported the fatigues and hardships of the journey, yet we are assured they were borne with the utmost fortitude and alacrity. An event however, which their confidence in their pretended friends had rendered perfectly unexpected, soon took place to render them as completely miserable as it was in the power of fortune to make them.

They had penetrated into the heart of the wilderness, whence it was next to an impossibility to extricate themselves without a skilful pilot; but they had never entertained a suspicion, that the human heart was capable of a baseness sufficient, for the sake of plundering a number of defenceless wretches of a few worthless articles of cloathing, which they had brought with them to cover their nakedness, to suggest the idea of leaving them a prey to the horrors of this dismal place. But however small the temptation may appear, these merciless villains, hardened against every feeling of humanity, and deaf to the cries of supplicating innocence, for this pitiful prize had formed a plan to rob and desert them. Little did the feeble resistance of a single man avail against the violence of three hardy ruffians; their designs were easily carried into execution; and having stripped them of every article of support, except a very small quantity of flour, and two or three pounds of moose flesh, they deserted their charge and abandoned them to their fate.

In this dreadful situation the unhappy family wandered together a number of days without knowing whither they went what course to pursue. Which ever way they directed their steps, nothing but unpenetrable deserts and impassable mountains or morasses presented themselves obstacles to their further progress. Inevitable death, under the hideous form of hunger and cold, were now staring them in the face, and Mrs Forbith with her four children, oppressed and exhausted with the fatigues they had suffered, had become incapable of any longer pursuing their fruitless journey.

Mr Forbith only, retained strength and spirits sufficient to undertake any farther means of discovery; but this was a small consolation, when he considered the utter impracticability of his carrying Mrs Forbith and the children with him, and the almost certain destruction that awaited them, should they be left in this dreary spot without his care and protection: on the other hand, should he tarry with them, it was evident that little more

could be expected, than prolonging their miserable lives without any prospect of final relief.

[To be continued]

A SUMMARY VIEW of the PROCEEDINGS of CONGRESS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11.

The house assembled agreeably to adjournment, A petition from the tradesmen, manufacturers, and others, of the town of Baltimore, was presented by Mr Smith, and referred to the committee of the whole house.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

Mr Page in the chair.

The order of the day being called for by Mr Sherman.

Mr Goodhue moved, that an addition to the list of articles already enumerated in the resolve, might be made by the following, viz. anchors, wooll-cards, wrought tin-ware, limes and lemons—which was done.

Mr Parker arose, and made a motion, that a select committee be appointed to take the important business of a system of revenue into consideration,—prepare a bill and report.

The chairman upon this, observed, that the motion was not in order,—as the house was then in a committee of the whole. It was a previous question whether that committee should rise and the speaker resume the chair.

Several gentlemen spoke upon the question, but on a division of the house it was finally lost.

Mr Maddison then brought forward a motion to this effect,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that a committee of the House ought to be appointed to prepare the draught of a Bill to regulate the collection of Duties on Imports and Tonnage within the United States. This motion was adopted.

On motion of Mr Lee, it was resolved, to proceed in filling up the articles in the original resolution.

Mr Maddison proposed 15-90ths of a dollar on Rum.

Mr Sherman, as an amendment, proposed 15 cents.

Another gentleman proposed 10 cents; but without the question's being put, the Committee, moved for by Mr Maddison, was elected, and consisted of a member from each State.

Adjourned to Monday, 11 o'clock.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1789, A. M.

The house met, and after reading over the minutes of Saturday, on motion of Mr Sherman, Messrs. Benson, P. Muhlenburg, and Griffin, were appointed a committee to confer with a committee of the senate, to establish the etiquette proper to be observed on the reception of the President and Vice President.

The report of the committee on rules and regulations for the government of the house, was read a second time; some desultory conversation arose thereupon, when that part which respected the du-

ty of the Searjeant at Arms, was re-committed—and that part recommending the appointment of a special committee for the purpose of examining the credentials of the members, was adopted; the house then proceeded to ballot for a committee for this purpose, and on casting up the votes, it appeared that Messrs Clymer, Ames, Benson, Carrol, White, Huntington and Gilmar, were appointed.

A petition from a committee of the shipwrights in the city of Charleston was read, praying the attention of Congress to pass such navigation laws, as might restore to the union that degree of commerce which a combination of untoward circumstances had hitherto deprived them of.

Ordered, that it be referred to the committee of the whole house.

On the STATE of the UNION.

A motion was made for proceeding to the order of the day on the state of the union; but on a division it appeared to be lost, and the house adjourned.

TUESDAY, April 14.

A bill for regulating the manner of taking the oath prescribed by the constitution, was presented to the house, read a first time, and ordered to lie on the table.

The committee to whom the additional rules of the house had been re-committed, reported the same, with alterations:—They were then taken up and agreed to.

The house then took up the order of the day, and went into a committee.

On the STATE of the UNION.

Mr Page in the chair.

The house after some debate on a proposition which was brought forward by Mr Bland; and afterwards withdrawn on the suggestion of the chairman, that it was not in order; proceeded to affix the duty to be laid on the several articles enumerated in the resolution which had been introduced by Mr Maddison.

The first article taken into consideration—was rum.—This word however, was struck out, and the following inserted “Distilled spirits of Jamaica proof.”—On this article it was agreed to lay a duty of fifteen cents* per gallon.

On all other spirits—it was agreed to lay a duty of twelve cents.

On molasses—it was agreed to lay a duty of six cents.

Madeira wine—33 and 1-3 cents.

All other wines—20 cents,

On brown sugar, per lb—1 cent.

Loaf sugar, per lb—3 cents.

On all other sugars—1 and 1-2 cents.

Cocoa and coffee, per lb—1 and 1-2 cents.

The committee after having proceeded thus far in the business, rose,

When the house adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 15.

Mr Tucker presented a petition from Doctor Ramsay, requesting the house to secure to him a copy-right for his publication of the history of the revolution of South-Carolina. A committee was appointed to report a bill on general principles.

Mr Sherman presented a petition from John Churchman, on the subject of longitude; which was referred to the committee just appointed on Doctor Ramsay's petition.

Mr Tucker presented a memorial from Doctor Ramsay, against the honorable Mr Smith, whom he attempts therein to prove unqualified for a seat in the house of representatives, inasmuch as he resided from the time he was 12 years of age, until he was 26, in Europe, and did not return to South-

Carolina till 1783. From which he infers, that the honourable Mr Smith has not been seven years a citizen of the United States; without which qualification, he cannot be a member of the lower house of Congress.

Ordered, That this memorial be referred to the committee on elections.

In committee of the whole—Mr Page in the chair.

On the STATE of the UNION.

They agreed to lay an impost

On cocoa, of per lb—1 cent.

On beer, ale and porter, imported in casks, per gallon—8 cents.

On ditto, in bottles, per dozen—24 cents.

On tallow candles, per lb—2 cents.

On wax candles, per lb—6 cents.

On cheese, per lb—4 cents.

On soap, per lb—2 cents.

On boots, per pair—50 cents.

On shoes, slippers and galloshoes, per pair—10 cents.

On unwrought steel, per 112lb—56 cents.

This article caused a lengthy and interesting debate, it being contended on the one hand proper to encourage the growing manufacture of that article, and opposed on the other, as a tax on agriculture and all mechanic arts, in which steel tools, &c. were necessary.

On nails, per 112lb—50 cents.

On tared cordage, per ditto—50 cents.

On untared ditto, per ditto—60 cents.

On twine and packthread, per ditto—1 dollar.

And after this it was agreed to add an additional impost upon hemp; but some gentlemen wished to proceed no further until they had made up their minds as to the quantum; whereupon the committee rose and reported.

Adjourned.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16.

Mr Benson presented a request from the library company for the use of the library-room in the federal building.

The following report was agreed to, viz.

That Mr Osgood, the proprietor of the house lately occupied by the President of Congress, be requested to put the same, and the furniture therein in proper condition for the residence and use of the President of the United States; to provide for his temporary accommodation.

That it will be most eligible in the first inst. that a committee of three members from the Senate, and five from the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Houses respectively, to attend to receive the President at such place as he shall embark from New-Jersey for this city, and conduct him without form, to the house lately occupied by the President of congress, and that at such time thereafter, as the President shall signify it will be most convenient for him, he be formally received by both houses.

That a committee of two members from the Senate, and three members from the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the House respectively, wait on the vice-president of the United States, as soon as he shall come to this city, and in the name of the Congress of the United States, congratulate him on his arrival.

And a committee of five was balloted for, and chosen accordingly, for the purpose of waiting on the president.

Another committee of three was appointed to wait on the vice-president.

A bill respecting the oath to be taken by the continental and state officers, to support the constitution, was read a second time; and on motion of Mr White, ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole on Monday next.

The house went into a committee On the STATE of the UNION.

Mr Page in the chair.

And the following articles were ordered to be taxed with an impost as follows, viz.

Hemp,	50 cents per 112lb.
Malt,	10 do. per bushel.
Barley,	6 do. do.
Lime,	100 do. per hoghead.
Nails and spikes,	1 do. per pound.

A considerable debate arose respecting the propriety of an additional tax on salt; but it being the usual time of adjourning, they came to no resolution thereon.

The committee then rose and reported progress, and the house adjourned.

FRIDAY, April 17.

The house went into a committee of the whole

On the STATE of the UNION.

The articles of salt recurring for consideration, Mr Lawrence supported the propriety of laying a duty on this article by its equality, being an object of universal consumption, and from the certainty there was of its collection.

Mr Moore was opposed to it, because he thought it unequal. He was of opinion, that the interior part where cattle were raised in greater abundance, paid proportionally more than the inhabitants of the sea coasts, whose productions were of another nature.

Mr Maddison observed, that if the fact which his colleague assumed was admitted, yet the tax did not operate unequally, because it was to be considered as only part of a system, the whole of which was intended to bear equally upon all. If the inhabitants of the interior country paid a greater proportion of the duty on salt, then those on the coast of the Atlantic; yet they paid less on every article on which impost was laid; they consumed less spirit, less wine, coffee, tea and sugar; hence, though an inequality appeared by viewing this article alone, yet it was fully equalized by the operation of the whole system.

Mr Scott and Mr White hoped the article would be struck out, as they looked upon it to be an odious tax, partaking too much of the nature of a capitation tax.

Mr Fitzsimons thought with Mr Maddison, that it was an equal tax, when considered as only part of a system, and he went to shew that it could not be oppressive, for on an average no family consumed more than five bushels, which at six cents, would be less than one third of a dollar.

The question was at length put on striking out, and lost, being ayes 19, noes 21.

After this the other blank was filled up with 6 cents per bushel.

Manufactured tobacco, 6 cents per lb.

Snuff, 10 do.

Window glass, and all other glass, 10 per cent. ad valorem.

Upon all blank books,

Upon all writing, printing and wrapping paper, &c.

Upon all pasteboard,

Upon all cabinet ware,

Upon all buttons of metal,

Upon all saddles,

Upon all gloves of leather,

Upon all hats, of beaver, fur, wool or mixture of either,

Upon all military,

Upon all castings of iron,

Upon slit or rolled iron,

Upon all leather tanned or tawed, &c.

Upon all manufactures of leather, (except such as are

otherwise rated by this act, 7½ per cent. ad valorem.

Upon every coach, chariot and other four wheel carriage,

Upon chair, solo, or other two wheel carriage, 15 per

cent. on the value.

Several other articles were proposed, of which the following were accepted; ready made clothes, gold, silver and plated wares, jewelry and paste, which were charged 7½ per cent. ad valorem.

The committee rose and reported, and then the house adjourned till to-morrow.

BEAUTY, BEAUTIFUL.

By Monsieur Voltaire.

ASK a toad what is beautiful, what is perfect beauty, he will answer you, it is his female, with two great round eyes peeping out of her little head, a large and flat mouth, a yellow belly, a brown back. Ask a negro of Guinea, the beautiful for him is a black oily skin, hollow eyes, a broad flat nose. Ask the devil, he will tell you that the beautiful is a pair of horns, four claws, and a tail. Lastly, consult the philosophers, they will answer by fustian; there must be something in

* A cent is the hundredth part of a dollar.

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